

Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

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MINUTES

April 24, 2003
(Adopted June 26, 2003)

Members Present: Chair Mary Pipersky, Mono Supervisors; Cindi Mitton, Lahontan RWQCB; Joseph Saulque, Benton Paiute Reservation; Kathy Lucich, USFS/Humboldt-Toiyabe; Terry Russi, BLM alternate; Sandy Hogan, USFS/Inyo; Gayle Rosander, Caltrans alternate; Mike Haynie, DFG alternate

Members Absent: John Eastman, Mammoth Lakes Town Council; Katy Walton, Caltrans; Chris Plakos, LADWP; Jeff Bailey, USFS/Inyo; Art Sam, Bridgeport Indian Colony; Bill Dunkelberger, BLM; Denyse Racine, DFG

Staff Present: Scott Burns, C.D. Ritter

Guests Present: Wendi Grasseschi, MCWD; Mary Canada, Sierra Business Council; Raymond Andrews, Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association; Wilma Wheeler, Sierra Club

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Mary Pipersky called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. Upon request, the flag salute followed.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
 - A. Raymond Andrews, Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association, inquired whether the USFS or CPT has plans for the pending Pandora moth visitation. Chair Pipersky explained that last meeting's presentation provided information only, and that CPT usually does not take action. Sandy Hogan indicated that USFS views the visitation as a natural event that is part of the culture and history of this area. A public information plan will help prepare people for associated impacts.
 - B. Mary Canada, Sierra Business Council: An SBC representative will present the new document "Investing for Prosperity" at the CPT meeting May 29. Details regarding SBC's annual conference Sept. 25-27 at the Mammoth Mountain Inn will be available next month as well. Canada invited CPT members to attend.
3. **MINUTES:** Review minutes of March 27, 2003: One correction was noted. Item 6, paragraph 4: *pragmatic* should have read *programmatic*. Team members present at that meeting were not here today, so adoption of the minutes was continued to the May 29 meeting.
4. **AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:** Members provided updates on agency planning issues and upcoming projects.
5. **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME UPDATES:**

Mike Haynie, DFG supervising biologist/regional lands coordinator

FISH STOCKING: The agency will plant more than 1 million catchable stock this year in the Eastern Sierra, including 42,000 pounds of fish for the season opener April 26. The current

limit is five fish per day, 10 in possession. Waters above 8,000 feet elevation, including the Mammoth Lakes Basin and Bishop Creek area, are still iced over. At Crowley Lake, put-and-grow species and strains of rainbow stocked near the end of last season should be .75 to 1.5 pounds by opening day.

The agency plans to maintain catchable quantities at their present level. No air plants will be conducted this year, as a hiring freeze has precluded replacement of three positions vacated by transfer and promotions at the Hot Creek hatchery. The brood-stock program has been impacted. As part of the current \$1.6 million budget reduction, DFG plans to close the Mad River steelhead hatchery in Humboldt County and possibly the Fall Creek salmon hatchery near Fresno. DFG chose areas with the least impact on anglers and increased efficiency. More cuts are expected in coming years.

DFG has enough fish on hand to plant throughout the season, even at upper lakes. Waters that are self-sustaining, provide habitat for amphibians, or have experienced a decline in natural spawning may no longer be stocked. Others may still receive planting, but not at former levels. The agency encourages catching fish in some backcountry waters due to overpopulation for the available food supply and a limited growing season.

LAND ACQUISITION: The DFG has the responsibility of protecting unique habitats in California and maintaining a variety of species, some of which are threatened or endangered. When considering land acquisition, DFG considers the type of land available, its uniqueness, and how it fits with planning efforts. This land acquisition process involves a number of steps, one of which is agency and citizen input.

For more than a year, DFG has been in the process of acquiring a scenic easement in Bridgeport Valley (Dressler Ranch). Once land is acquired, the Fish and Game Commission can give it formal designation as a wildlife area or an ecological reserve. The intent is to manage for unique habitat values and species variety, not so much for recreation, although people can hunt or fish with DFG approval.

6. CPT YEAR IN REVIEW, 2002: *Continued to next meeting.*

7. SET NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 29, 2003, at 9 a.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. "Investing for Prosperity": Sierra Business Council (May 29)
- B. "The Obsidian Trail": Caltrans

8. ADJOURN: 11:57 a.m.
secretary

Respectfully submitted, C.D. Ritter, team